

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

CASTENMILLER, et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: POSITION DETECTION SYSTEM FOR USE IN LITHOGRAPHIC
APPARATUS

* * * * *

December 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to fee determination and initial review of the above-identified
application, kindly amend as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, at the top of the page insert --BACKGROUND OF THE
INVENTION--;

before line 1, insert --1. Field of the Invention--.

before line 14, insert --2. Description of the Related Art--.

Page 2, line 33, delete "in one go;" insert --at once--.

Page 4, before line 13, insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 6, before line 34, insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 7, before line 11, insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A lithographic projection apparatus comprising:
[an] a projection beam illumination system [for supplying] which supplies a projection beam of radiation;
a first object table for holding [patterning means capable of patterning]
a projection beam patterning device which patterns the projection beam
according to a desired pattern;
a second object table for holding a substrate; and
a projection system [for imaging] which images the patterned beam
onto a target portion of the substrate; [and]
a reference frame; [characterized by:] and
a position detection device comprising:
a radiation source mounted on said reference frame;
a two-dimensional radiation detector mounted in a fixed
position on said reference frame; and
a mirroring device mounted on one of said object tables that is
moveable relative to said reference frame so as to reflect radiation
emitted by said radiation source toward said radiation detector.

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein said radiation source is a source of monochromatic radiation.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1[, 2 or 3] wherein said mirroring device is a retro-reflector.

5. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said radiation source comprises a light source mountable away from the reference frame, beam directing optics mountable on said reference frame and an optical fiber to couple said light source to said beam directing optics.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said radiation source comprises one of a laser diode[, or] and an LED as a light source.

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said two-dimensional position detector is a two-dimensional PSD, or a CCD camera, or a four quadrant photo-detector.

8. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said retro-reflector comprises a trapezoid form of a material transparent to said radiation and having three mutually perpendicular surfaces meeting at a corner, said three surfaces being provided with a

reflective coating.

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 wherein said retro-reflector comprises a convergent lens and a reflective surface, said reflective surface being spaced a distance from said lens equal to the focal length of said lens.

10. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising three position detection devices as therein defined.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 further comprising an incremental position sensing device [for detecting the] to detect a position of said moveable object table in a detection range wider than that of said position detection device and [means for combining] a combiner, which combines output signals from said incremental position sensing device and said position detector to determine an absolute position of said object table in said detection range.

12. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a device [using a lithographic projection apparatus comprising:

an illumination system for supplying a projection beam of radiation;

a first object table for holding patterning means capable of patterning the projection

beam according to a desired pattern;

a second object table for holding a substrate;

a reference frame; and

a projection system for imaging the patterned beam onto a target portion of the substrate; the method comprising the steps of:] comprising:

providing a substrate provided with a radiation-sensitive layer to [said] a second object table;

providing a projection beam of radiation using [the] an illumination system;

[using said] patterning [means to endow] the projection beam [with] to form a pattern in its cross section; and

projecting the patterned beam onto said target portions of said substrate; [characterized in that:]

[prior to or during said step of projecting, one of said object tables that is moveable relative to said reference frame is determined to be in a reference position by the steps of]

determining a reference position of one of said object tables relative to a reference frame by:

emitting radiation from a radiation source mounted on said reference frame toward a mirroring device mounted on said one object table[.];

reflecting the radiation; [by said mirroring device] and

detecting the reflected radiation in a two-dimensional radiation detector mounted in a fixed position on said reference frame.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, [wherein said lithographic projection apparatus further comprises an incremental position

sensing system for sensing the position of said one object table, said method comprising the further step, after said one object table is determined to be in said reference position, of] further comprising:

determining [the] an absolute position of said one object table by measuring movements thereof relative to said reference position using said incremental position sensing system.

14. (Amended) A device manufactured according to the method of claim 12 [or 13].

Please add the following new claim:

--16. A method of determining a reference position of a moveable object table comprising;

emitting radiation from a radiation source mounted on a reference frame toward a mirroring device mounted on said moveable object table;

reflecting the radiation by said mirroring device; and

detecting the reflected radiation in a two-dimensional radiation detector mounted on a fixed position on said reference frame.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending, claim 16 being newly added herein.

The application has been amended to improve readability, to conform better to U.S. practice, and to ensure that the claims are not construed under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.

CASTENMILLER et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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